

Pioneer Life and the Lincoln Living Historical Farm



The frontier where Abraham Lincoln grew up did much to shape his personality and character. Because pioneer life was difficult, Lincoln learned, at an early age, that hard work, ingenuity, and determination were necessary to survive. Things that were worth having were worth working for - whether it was food, money, or an education.

There was also a pride and sense of accomplishment for those pioneers that did survive. They gained a sense that anything was possible. Abraham Lincoln certainly proved that was true. Despite obstacles and hardships, he persevered to attain the things that were important to him.

At the Lincoln Living Historical Farm, a re-created pioneer homestead helps visitors to better understand and appreciate the kind of life Lincoln led as a boy. By seeing how he lived and the types of things that he and his family did, it is hoped that the students will learn something of the boy who went on to become President of the United States.

In this section are some examples of typical pioneer activities. Take some time to discuss them and their significance to the pioneers' lives. Emphasize how the ability to improvise and devise ways of accomplishing things, sometimes in a very ingenious fashion, helped to make the pioneers self-reliant. It was this self-reliance, learned on the frontier, that enabled Lincoln to achieve so much in his life. He learned that hard work and determination were necessary to attain his goal, whether it was the acquisition of a new book or the reunification of the nation.

Also included is a list of terms and definitions that will help the children to better understand the pioneer activities.
